

Southern California Academy of Sciences

Annual Meeting, May 2-3, 1997

Fullerton College



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A LOOK AT THE EFFECT OF INTRODUCED FROGS AND FISH ON NATIVE CALIFORNIA AMPHIBIANS. R. N. Fisher, Department of Biology 0116, University of California- San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093.

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Recent reports of declining amphibians have indicated various factors as possibly contributing to declines. I have studied pond-breeding amphibians in the Central Valley of California, and in central Orange County and have found similar patterns of distribution of native species relative to exotic frog and fish species. These patterns suggest that exotic species may be the cause of declines in native amphibians. The main reason for this pattern may result initially from habitat change. This change is the replacement of natural ephemeral ponds with perennial waterbodies which are susceptible to invasion from exotics. Suggestions for exotic control in management of ponds includes reducing pond persistence, although evidence will be provided that this might not be successful for the control of certain species.

STANDARD AND NOVEL ENRICHMENT USE IN A GROUP OF CAPTIVE CHIMPANZEES, *Pan troglodytes*. M. K. Collier¹, M.A. Krause², R.S. Fouts, Ph.D.³,
¹California State Univ. Fullerton, Department of Anthropology. CA 92634. ²University of Tennessee, Department of Psychology. Louisville, TN 37777. ³Central Washington University, Chimpanzee Human Communication Institute. Ellensburg, WA 98926.

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The social and complex nature of chimpanzees must be considered in designing any type of enrichment program for their captive maintenance. By focusing on their exploratory behavior of objects, some of the adverse effects of captivity can be decreased with enrichment. This study examined the amount of object use by the five chimpanzees at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) in Washington. The chimpanzees were provided with enrichment items categorized as standard and nonstandard. They receive on a daily basis the standard enrichment such as: clothing, magazines, toys, drawing materials, and food puzzles. Nonstandard enrichment included a large wooden spool, a stolen hose, and a foraging activity. The results of this study suggest that these chimpanzees were less responsive to novel stimuli, demonstrating that chimpanzees become easily habituated to novel objects, especially when raised in enriched settings. Chimpanzees in deprived settings, however, may respond with interest and excitement at new items. Enrichment in either case should be designed with the individual chimpanzee in mind, and captive settings should accommodate both species typical and individual needs.